

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 AMMAN 06949 290826Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
-----001581 290834Z /10

P 290744Z AUG 78
FM AMEMBASSY AMMAN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7458
INFO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY CAIRO PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS PRIORITY
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV PRIORITY

S E C R E T AMMAN 06949

EXDIS

E. O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PGOV, JO, SY, LE
SUBJECT: TALK WITH JORDANIAN COURT CHIEF SHARAF ON SYRIA
AND LEBANON

1. IN MEETING AUGUST 28 ROYAL COURT CHIEF ABDUL HAMID
SHARAF MENTIONED TO ME THAT HE WAS LEAVING THAT AFTERNOON
TO VISIT SYRIAN PRESIDENT ASSAD.

2. SHARAF SAID THE SYRIANS TEND TO GET NERVOUS AND SUS-
PICIOUS WHEN THEY ARE OUT OF TOUCH(SHARAF IMPLIED ON THE
MIDEAST NEGOTIATION ISSUE) AND MAJOR OBJECTIVE OF SHARAF'S
VISIT IS TO TRY TO KEEP SYRIANS CALM BEFORE CAMP DAVID
MEETING. (WITHOUT SAYING SO EXPLICITLY, SHARAF WILL UN-
DOUBTEDLY GO OVER CAUTIOUS JORDANIAN POSITION ON MIDEAST
NEGOTIATIONS AND REASSURE SYRIANS ON JORDANIAN POSTURE ON
CAMP DAVID SUMMIT.)

3. SHARAF SAID MAJOR ISSUE JORDAN WISHES TO DISCUSS IS
LEBANON. SHARAF QUESTIONED ME CLOSELY ON OUR PERCEPTION

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 AMMAN 06949 290826Z

OF CURRENT LEBANESE SITUATION AND ASKED ME POINTEDLY
WHETHER WE THOUGHT SYRIANS WERE OUT TO ANNIHILATE THE
LEBANESE MILITIAS. IN REPLY I SAID I HAD NOT SEEN ANY
ASSESSMENT OF RECENT FIGHTING IN NORTH LEBANON AND WE HAD
NO FIRM FIX ON ULTIMATE SYRIAN INTENTIONS BUT THAT OUR
GENERAL IMPRESSION HAS BEEN THAT SYRIAN ADF ACTIONS WERE
NOT AIMED AT ANNIHILATION OF CHRISTIAN MILITIAS, BUT

RATHER AT TEACHING THEM A LESSON FOLLOWING CONSIDERABLE CHRISTIAN MILITIA PROVOCATION. IF THE MILITIAS DID NOT LEARN THE LESSON, AND MANY SEEMED NOT TO WANT TO DO SO, THEN THE SYRIANS MIGHT BE TEMPTED TO RESUME THEIR ACTIVITIES. I MENTIONED OUR CONCERN THAT SYRIAN ARTILLERY BARRAGES AGAINST CIVILIAN AREAS WERE OUT OF PROPORTION TO PROVOCATION AND WERE ALIENATING CHRISTIAN CIVILIANS. I ALSO MENTIONED OUR GENERAL IMPRESSION AND HOPE THAT ISRAELIS WERE PROBABLY GOING TO KEEP A LOW PROFILE IN LEBANON PRIOR TO CAMP DAVID TALKS, THAT SOUTH LEBANON DOES NOT APPEAR IN A CRISIS SITUATION AND THAT DESPITE SOME DISENGAGEMENT, BEIRUT REMAINS A SERIOUS POTENTIAL PROBLEM.

4. COMMENT: I HOPE SHARAF'S VISIT TO SYRIA WILL SERVE ITS INTENDED PURPOSE. SHARAF SEEMED SOMEWHAT NERVOUS ABOUT LEBANESE SITUATION AND I THINK HIS OBJECTIVE WAS TO RE-ASSURE THE SYRIANS REGARDING JORDAN'S CAUTIOUS POSTURE REGARDING CAMP DAVID TALKS, SO THAT SYRIANS WILL NOT BE TEMPTED TO TAKE ANY ACTION IN LEBANON(AND SHARAF DID NOT SUGGEST HE HAD ANY INFORMATION SYRIANS INTENDED TO DO SO) THAT COULD COMPLICATE THE AREA ATMOSPHERE IN THE MEANTIME. SUDDARTH

SECRET

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: FOREIGN RELATIONS, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS, POLITICAL SITUATION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 29 aug 1978
Decaption Date: 20 Mar 2014
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978AMMAN06949
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780352-0344
Format: TEL
From: AMMAN
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780811/aaaaaina.tel
Line Count: 84
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 2ca41759-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION SS
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 30 jun 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1568006
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: TALK WITH JORDANIAN COURT CHIEF SHARAF ON SYRIA AND LEBANON
TAGS: PGOV, JO, SY, LE
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/2ca41759-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014